

## Eskimos Don't Rub Noses, Local Teacher Says—And She Was There

Modern Eskimos don't live in igloos, don't rub noses to kiss, and wear not only furs, but mail order catalogue clothes.

Lots of information like this about Eskimos and other residents of America's 49th state is being furnished to members of Mrs. Margie Meininger's fifth and sixth grade class this year.

Mrs. Meininger spent a year teaching Eskimo children at Point Lay, Alaska, far north of the Arctic Circle. Appropriately enough, she is teaching at Torrance's Yukon Elementary School.

Mrs. Meininger, her husband and two daughters were the only white persons at Point Lay, which she reports is quite different from sunny Southern California.

LOCATED ON the Arctic Ocean, Point Lay has about 30 citizens, 18 of them children. There is almost no vegetation except green moss. Temperatures range from about 50 below to 60 above zero. During the winters, the sun never shines, although it gets light about noon.

Torrance children have many questions about Alaska, since they never have been to such a treeless, icy area. Eskimo children also have trouble understanding a country where there is greenery, trees, and peculiar animals like the cow and the horse. Because the children never had seen them, they had a hard time understanding how milk could get from inside a cow to inside a can.

AS "TEACHER," Mrs. Meininger and her husband were advisors, friends, medical technicians, and instructors in all fields of endeavor.

Some of her observations on life above the Arctic Circle include:

Textbooks and teaching aids, furnished by the Department of the Interior, were very good, although the projector's use was uncertain because of frequent power failures. The curriculum covered the same general areas as that in the continental U. S.

Since the main occupation of the villagers was hunting, fishing, and trapping for walrus, seal, and bear, there was little opportunity for the young people. However, older children had to go away to high school and many never return to their village.

THE VILLAGE generally was poor. When the villagers got some money, they spent it on beverages or phonograph records. Some of the people carved ivory.

Mrs. Meininger was the village medical technician, giving shots, treating frostbite, and getting radio instructions for treating more serious ailments. A Coast Guard cutter comes once a year to give X-Rays, medical and dental care.

Water was precious. Ice was cut from a nearby lake, hauled in, and stored for use. Water was obtained by melting the ice. Many of the Eskimos considered baths a waste of time because it was hard to haul in ice by dog sled.

MAIN FORMS of amusement were square dances, dog races and card games. Most common

meats were caribou, whale and seal.

Mrs. Meininger had to caution her daughters, Rae Lynn, 8, and Jerri Lee, 7, not to wander too far from their combination home-school, because they might be attacked by bears or wolves.

The Meiningers were attracted to Point Lay by advertisements they read while attending the University of Nebraska. They were intrigued by the job description (which probably would have frightened most people). They had a two-year contract, but Meininger became ill and had to return.

Mrs. Meininger and her two daughters, Jerri Lee and Rae Lynn, students at Yukon now, liked Point Lay.

"It was interesting and the people were my friends," she noted. "I'd like to go back

## Veterans To Greet State Chief

A record turnout of Legionnaires is expected Monday night, Oct. 12, when the veterans of America's wars gather at the clubhouse of South Bay Post 187 to honor State Commander C. S. Foote.

The highlight of the program will be the commander's dinner which will be staged at 7 p.m. in the banquet hall of the Post at 412 So. Camino Real. All veterans and their wives are invited. Reservations can be made by calling Adjutant Fred Pelletier at FRon-tier 2-6781.



JUST A LITTLE TOO BIG . . . That's what Mrs. Margie Meininger, Yukon School teacher, decided after trying her Eskimo parka on Terry Gulek. Mrs. Meininger showed her students some of the things she used when she taught Eskimo children at Point Lay, Alaska.

## Groundbreaking For Alondra Building Slated

Official groundbreaking ceremonies for the new community recreation building in the northwest portion of Alondra park will be held Thursday afternoon, Oct. 29, Supervisor Kenneth Hahn announced this week.

Chester Brown, president, Lawndale chamber of commerce, will be program chairman for the groundbreaking. The ceremonies will mark the official start of construction of the 5000 square foot recreation building which will make possible a greatly expanded and improved recreational program for the large area served by Alondra park, which is a County regional playground, Supervisor Hahn said.

Project is the second in a series of major improvements to the northwest portion of the park, which was formerly occupied by a run-down, temporary veterans' housing unit, so that it can better meet the recreational needs of the area.

**Public Breakfast**  
Royal Neighbors Camp will sponsor a public breakfast on Wednesday, Oct. 21, from 8:30 until 11:30 p.m. at the home of Mrs. Cordie White, 1108 Cravens Ave.

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